Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

COME-00 IO-14 OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /106 R

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EB/IFD/ODF:EMLINTON
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AFR/CWA:MR. GRIFFITH

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R 191838Z OCT 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652. N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PFOR, GH, IBRD SUBJECT: IBRD ROAD LOAN TO GHANA

- 1. CHAUFOURNIER HAS INFORMED USG THAT MCNAMARA HAS GIVEN PERSONAL APPROVAL FOR INSCRIPTION OF GHANA ROAD LOAN ON IBRD BOARD'S AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 30. DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED TO BOARD MEMBERS OCTOBER 18. BRITISH WERE INFORMED WEEK AGO OF DECISION TO INCLUDE THIS LOAN ON AGENDA.
- 2. BANK'S DECISION BASED ON GHANAIAN WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, AS STATED IN MESSAGE TO CREDITORS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR SEPTEMBER 18-19 LONDON CREDITORS' MEETING. BANK BELIEVES THIS WILLINGNESS CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARD DEBT SETTLEMENT TO JUSTIFY FURTHER LENDING TO GHANA. BANK ASSUMES GHANAIANS WILL HAVE RESPONDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFIRMATIVELY PRIOR OCTOBER 30 TO CREDITORS' SEPTEMBER

COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTING DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. IN ABSENCE SUCH RESPONSE, BANK WOULD PRESUMABLY POSTPONE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION OF LOAN.

- 3. CHAUFOURNIER INDICATED BANK'S DECISION RELATED EXTREME ANNOYANCE VOICED BY GHANAIANS WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT IBRD HAD POSTPONED CONSIDERATION OF ROAD LOAN IN SEPTEMBER. CHAUFOURNIER SAID ENNINFUL TWICE STARTED WALK OUT ON HIM WHEN SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN NAIROBI, AND CHAUFOURNIER FOUND GHANAIANS, INCLUDING ACHEAMPONG, EQUALLY AGITATED IN ACCRA. THRUST OF GHANAIAN POSITION WAS THAT IN PROVIDING FORMULA FOR DEALING WITH REPUDIATED DEBTS GOG HAD MET ALL EXISTING POLITICAL PREREQUISITES FOR LOAN APPROVAL AND THAT FURTHER DELAY A BLATANT ATTEMPT BY CREDITORS TO USE IBRD LENDING FOR ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE, THUS CALLING INTO QUESTION IMPARTIALITY OF BANK AS INTERMEDIARY.
- 4. CHAUFOURNIER HAS INFORMED GHANAIANS THAT DECISION TO SCHEDULE BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ROAD LOAN DOES NOT COMMIT IBRD TO ADDITIONAL LOANS. GHANAIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD FURTHER LENDING IS LINKED TO ADDITIONAL PROGRESS TOWARD DEBT SETTLEMENT. CHAUFOURNIER ALSO INFORMED GOG THAT LIMITS ON IDA FUNDS WORLDWIDE REDUCE AVAILABILITIES FOR GHANA.
- 5. EVIDENT CHAUFOURNIER DISTURBED BY CRITICISM TO WHICH IBRD HAS BECOME EXPOSED AND IS RECEIVING FROM GHANAIANS AND SOME CREDITORS, NOTABLY BRITISH, DUE CONFLICTS INHERENT IN TRYING PLAY SIMULTANEOUSLY THREE ROLES OF INTERMEDIARY, DONOR, AND ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO GOG. PERHAPS TO REDUCE THIS EXPOSURE, CHAUFOURNIER PRESENTLY DOES NOT INTEND PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN DEBT NEGOTIATIONS, AND DOUBTS IBRD WILL BE REPRESENTED BEYOND INITIAL INTRODUCTORY PHASE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 OCT 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE 207660

Document Number: 1973STATE207660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:RCB Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731021/aaaaaoxw.tel Line Count: 94

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ORIGIN AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: worrelsw

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09 JAN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IBRD ROAD LOAN TO GHANA TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PFOR, GH, IBRD

To: ACCRA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005